Boston Nov. 14-15 1837

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Dear Brother

PHELPS MSS.

I am anxious to get at the exact position of the ministry of all denominations in the state, in regard to the subject of slavery and its abolition. My reasons are two-

1. The information will be valuable on several accounts; 2nd I wish to show if the facts warrant it, as I suppose they will) that more in proportion to their whole number, of the clergy are now abolitionists than of the laity. I deem it very important to establish this point if it can be done, at the present time - particularly before the annual meting of the State Society in Jan. do I desire the information, that I may use it if necessary, in reply to any unjust charges that may then be made against the ministry as a body.

Will you then obtain & forward me before the 1st of January next full information, on the following points, in respect to each clergyman of your denomination, belonging to or within the limits of your association.

1. Their number, names, & post office address.
2. Who are members of any Anti-Slavery Societys formed on the principles of Im. Emancipation?
3. Who of them, if not members of any society, do yet heartily adopt the principles of Immed. Emancipation as set forth in the Const. of the American Anti-Slavery Society?
4. Why those who thus adopt these principles & yet are not members of any society are so?
5. Who of them have preached, made speeches, & labored in other ways for the promotion of the cause of Im. Em.?
6. If any who adopt these principles, have not acted hitherto as efficiently as they

could have desired, what have been the obstacles in the way?

Dear Sir, if you will see each member of your association furnished with a copy of the above questions, with a request that each will furnish such answer as the facts in his case warrants, you will aid I think materially, the cause of truth righteousness & much oblige Yours truly for the slave & the ministry of the Gospel

A. A. Phelps.

Believe me, dear brother these questions are asked only fr. a sincere desire to get at the real facts in the case, & an earnest hope the facts will fully sustain the point suggested on the other page. It will cost you some time & labor, I know, to furnish a complete answer to them all, but it will be time & labor well spent both for the slave & the cause & institutions of religion generally. Particularly do I desire exact & complete information in regard to the first four inqs., & the sooner I have it the better provided it be complete.